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courage is contagious

Viewing cable 06SANJOSE88, NATIONAL SECURITY PLANNING WORKSHOP FOR COSTA RICA

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#06SANJOSE88**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
06SANJOSE88	2006-01-13 13:39	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy San Jose

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.nacion.com/2011-03-06/Investigacion/NotasDestacadas/Investigacion2702320.aspx>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-03-06/Investigacion/NotaPrincipal/Investigacion2702324.aspx>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-03-06/Investigacion/NotasSecundarias/Investigacion2702325.aspx>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-03-06/Investigacion/NotasSecundarias/Investigacion2702326.aspx>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-03-06/Investigacion/NotasSecundarias/Investigacion2702327.aspx>

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 000088

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

FOR GENERAL CRADDOCK FROM AMBASSADOR LANGDALE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/12/2016

TAGS: [PINS](#) [MARR](#) [PREL](#) [CS](#)

SUBJECT: NATIONAL SECURITY PLANNING WORKSHOP FOR COSTA RICA

REF: 05 SAN JOSE 2909

Classified By: Ambassador Mark Langdale for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

1. (C) Dear General Craddock: I am writing to seek your support for an initiative to engage early on with the new Costa Rican leadership team before it enters office and while it is still forming its governing agenda. During my consultations in Washington before coming to post, I met with Dr. Richard Downie of the Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies. He described the Center's organization of National Security Planning Workshops (NSPW) in Panama, Peru and Paraguay and proposed to organize one for Costa Rica. These workshops gather senior members of incoming administrations and their appropriate counterparts from the USG, over a period of some 2-3 days, in an off-site format to formulate a draft national security strategy. This strikes me as an ideal vehicle for us to advance our interests in Costa Rica with the new administration.

2. (C) The polls in Costa Rica indicate that Oscar Arias, who was president in 1986-1990, is certain to win the election. He will take office on May 8. When I made my introductory call on Arias on December 7 (reftel), I described for him in general terms the NSPW concept. Arias responded that such a workshop could be "a good idea." My staff later followed up with Arias's running mate as

second vice president, who suggested we discuss the idea in detail immediately following the elections.

13. (C) I am under no illusions that dealing with a President Arias will always be a smooth matter, but we have to recognize that he is potentially an important leader in Latin America and the world beyond the borders of Costa Rica due to his Nobel Prize and past world status. He envisions himself as a player on a larger stage.

14. (C) Though I left the session at CHDS with the strong impression that they had adequate budget to cover the full costs of such an endeavor (which I understood would be on the order of \$40-50,000), subsequent follow-up by my staff with CHDS indicates that funding such a workshop is not so simple.

I would appreciate it if you would consider SOUTHCOM participation in and funding of an NSPW in Costa Rica. We believe that an NSPW would provide us with a chance to influence the security policies of the Arias government in the right direction and secure Arias's support for adopting a regional approach to deal with common security challenges in Central America. That would be well worth a small investment.

LANGDALE